



BY ROY THOMAS, RICK HOBERG, AND MIKE MACHLAN

75¢

31

MAR 84



ALL-STAR SQUADRON

UNCLE SAM
WANTS YOU--

--TO SAVE
THE WORLD!



SEREBY ORDWAY



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C-562

SEE THE MASKED MAN.

SEE HIM RUN.

SEE HIM RUN DOWN
DARK, DESERTED,
RAIN-SOAKED STREETS.

Manhattan Transfer Co.
IMPORT - EXPORT

THE MAN'S NAME,
LIKE THE HOUR,
IS...

MIDNIGHT

HIS REAL NAME IS DAVE CLARK.



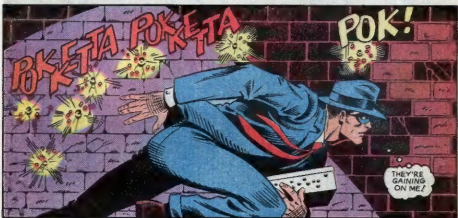
MOST NIGHTS,
HE READS
NEWS OVER
THE RADIO
FOR A
LIVING.



TONIGHT, HE JUST RUNS...



...TO KEEP ON LIVING.



FUNNY, THE SHOTS
DIDN'T AWAKEN
ANYBODY...EVEN
IN THIS
NEIGHBORHOOD.



THEN,
AGAIN,
MAYBE
THEY
DID...



...BUT NOBODY
WANTS TO GET
INVOLVED.





ER LIEF DORT
HIN! DU BLEIB
HIER STEHN!

KEEP COMING,
FRITZ.

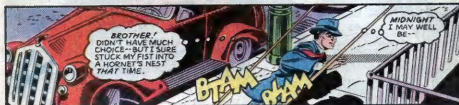
MY GERMAN'S
KIND OF RUSTY--

JAWOHL!



ARRRGH--!

--BUT THEN, SO IS
YOUR FÜHRER'S
SENSE OF DECENCY!



BROTHER!
DIDN'T HAVE MUCH
CHOICE-- BUT I SURE
STUCK MY FIST INTO
A HORNET'S NEST
THAT TIME.

MIDNIGHT
I MAY WELL
BE--



--BUT I'LL
NEVER LIVE TO
SEE MORNING--

HALT, DU SCHWEINHUND!



--UNLESS
I CAN--



--HITCH
A RIDE--



--ON THE
OLD IRT
LINE!



LUCKY NONE OF THOSE SHOTS
HIT MY SAFETY-DEPOSIT BOX
HERE, OR IT WOULDN'T HAVE
MATTERED IF THOSE GOOSE-
STEPPERS HAD PUT ME AWAY.

THIS TRAIN'LL TAKE ME TO
THE END OF THE LINE--
OR ALMOST TO THE
ALL-STAR SQUADRON.

IF I CAN'T MAKE IT THE
REST OF THE WAY UNDER
MY OWN STEAM--

--THE WORLD'S IN EVEN
BIGGER TROUBLE THAN
IT ALREADY KNOWS!

MEANWHILE, HIGH OVERHEAD--
AND UNAWARE THAT MEN OF THE
SHARPSHOOTERS STALK MANHATTAN'S
STREETS IN FULL NEW REGALIA--
CARTER HALL AND SHISRA
SANDERS ARE ON THEIR WAY TO A
RENDZVOUS WITH DESTINY, OF A SORT.

THE WORLD
BELOW KNOWS
THEM BETTER
AS AMAZONIAN
AND AIRBORNE.



GIVE ME A BREAK,
MONEY. HONEST--I'M
OVERUSED YOU'VE
BEEN MUSTERED OUT
OF THE SERVICE, JUST
LIKE WE GUYS WERE.

THAT'S NOT
WHY THE LONS
FACE UNDER
THIS BEAK, THIS
FINE SUNDAY
EVENING...

IT'S THE
NEWS FROM
THE WAR--

THE JAPANESE ATTACK ON PORT
SPARVIN * LAST WEEK-- GENERAL
MACARTHUR BEING ORDERED TO
FLEE THE PHILIPPINES --

SORRY,
DARLINS. I
DIDN'T MEAN TO
UH, MESS UP
YOU.

*AUSTRALIA--R.T.

GUESS A GIRL SHOULD
RESERVE THAT KIND OF
THING FOR AFTER
SHE'S MARRIED, HUH?

JUST KIDDING!

REALLY, I'M JUST
ECSTATIC TO BE A
FUNCTIONING MEMBER
OF THE ALL-STAR
SQUADRON AGAIN.

I MEAN, YOUR
JUSTICE SOCIETY
NEVER APPRECIATED
ME, ANYWAY--
NEVER EVEN
INVITED ME TO
JOIN.

IT'S NOT "MY"
JUSTICE SOCIETY,
SHISRA.

NO, BUT YOU STOOD BY WHEN
THEY ALL WENT GA-GA OVER THAT
UPSTART AMAZON WITH THE
STAR-SPANGLED GIRDLE.

HER NAME'S WONDER
WOMAN, AND YOU KNOW IT.
BESIDES, I THOUGHT YOU
LIKED DIANA.

I DO! THAT'S NOT THE POINT.
IT'S JUST THAT I WAS A MYSTERY-
WOMAN FIRST, SO I THINK--

WHAT'S THAT?? SOME
KIND OF AIRPLANE--

--COMING
RIGHT AT US!?

CONTINUED ON 322 PAGE FOLLOWING



NO--*HELD* IT! IT'S A *MAN*--*FLYING*--AND *GLOWING*, BESIDES!

PLUS A *SECOND* GUY JUST BEHIND HIM! WE'D BETTER--

DON'T GET YOUR FEATHERS RUFFLED, HAWKS! MAYBE YOU DON'T KNOW ME--BUT I SURE KNOW ABOUT YOU TWO.

THEY CALL ME *THE* *RED*--



--AND THIS AMABLE GENT WITH THE UNDERARM GLIDER-CHUTES GOES BY THE NAME *BLACK CONDOR*.

BEEN LOOKING *FORWARD* TO MEETING YOU, HAWKMAN... YOU, TOO, *MISS*.

SCARF WE'VE HEARD OF YOU BOTH. DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE *BUDDIES*, THOUGH.



ACTUALLY, WE MET JUST A FEW MINUTES AGO... AT 5000 FEET.

MIND IF WE *JOIN* YOU--*ASSUMING* YOU'RE GOING OUR WAY?

THAT'S A PRETTY SAFE BET, TONIGHT OF ALL NIGHTS.

COME ON! IT'S GETTING LATE.

WANNA MAKE A *FEAR*-WAY RACE OUT OF IT?



DON'T BITE, HAWKS! THERE'S NO PERCENTAGE IN RACING A GUY WHO CAN TURN HIMSELF INTO *PURE LIGHT*--AND HITCH A RIDE ON A *HYPERWAVE*.

ANYWAY, THERE'S THE *ASSASSIN* ALREADY.

WONDER WHAT *CHANGES* THEY'VE MADE--WHILE WE *JEOPARDIS* WERE BUSY CORRALLING THE *BLACK DRAGONS*? #

LAST ISSUE. --R.Z.



BY THE WAY, AS A PROFESSIONAL COURTESY, CONDOR--WOULD YOU MIND TELLING ME JUST *HOW* YOU MANAGE TO FLY?

I MEAN--ON THE FACE OF IT, YOU LOOK TO BE *ACROBATICALLY* *CHAMPION*.

WELL, WOULD YOU BELIEVE I WAS REARED BY A FLOCK OF *WILD CONDORS* IN OUTER *MONGOLIA*?

YOU SEE, HAWK? YOU ASK A *SALLY* QUESTION...!





THAT ANY MORE AMAZING THAN GETTING ZAPPED BY A COSMIC BEAM WHILE FLOATING AROUND IN A GAS BALLOON?

'CAUSE THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED TO YOURS TRULY!

CONSIDERING MY OWN ORIGINS, RAY, I'LL BUY BOTH STORES. I--



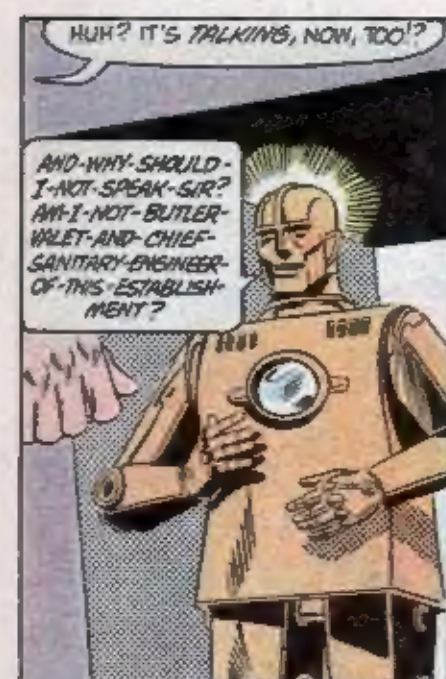
HAHA NOW! THERE'S SOMETHING AHEAD-- BLOCKING OUR WAY INSIDE!



HOLY--! IT'S THAT WORLD'S FAIR ROBOT.

--THE ONE THE BRAIN HAVE TURNED AGAINST THE ALL-STARS BEFORE!

BES-PARDON-MASTER-HAWKMAN-BUT-I-HOPE-YOU-WILL-NOT-HOLD-MY-SORDID-PAST-AGAINST-ME.



HUH? IT'S TALKING, NOW, TOO?!

AND-WHY-SHOULD-I-NOT-SPEAK-SIR? AM-I-NOT-BUTLER-WALET-AND-CHIEF-SANITARY-ENGINEER-OF-THIS-ESTABLISHMENT?



BUTLER!? YOU MEAN--?

THE-NAME-IS-GERNSBACK-SIR. AT-YOUR-SERVICE.



FORGIVE OUR LITTLE JENK, EVERYBODY. ROBOTMAN WAS SO PROUD OF HIS REWIRING JOB, HE WANTED TO SURPRISE YOU.

OUR RE-WIRING JOB, YOU MEAN, STEEL.

IF-ANY-OF-YOU-HAS-A-NIT...

DON'T JUST STAND THERE. COME ON IN...



...AND WELCOME TO THE VERY FIRST MEETING OF THE FULL ROSTER OF THE...

ALL STAR SQUADRON

GOOD LORD! THE GANG'S ALL HERE, ALL RIGHT!

HEADS UP, PEOPLE! THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JUSTICE SOCIETY JUST WALKED IN THE DOOR.

NOW WE CAN GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD!

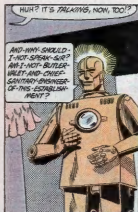
UNCLE SAM WANTS YOU!

--PARAPHRASE OF A POSTER SLOGAN OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR.

ROY THOMAS
WRITER &
EDITOR
RICK HOBERG
NEW PENCILLER IN RESIDENCE
MIKE MACHLAN
INKER
D'ANGELO
COLORIST
COOY &
COSANZA
LETTERS

AH! THIS GROUP COULD SURE USE A FEW MORE FEMALES!

YOU DON'T KNOW SHERA VERY WELL, DO YOU, PHANTOM LADY?



OTHERS IN THIS STAR-STudded COMPANY ARE GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER, TOO... WITH MIXED RESULTS.

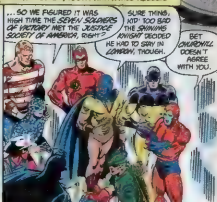


DON'T YOU GO HIGH-HAT ON ME, SPEEDY! WHY, GREEN ARROW'S NOTHING BUT BATMAN WITH A BOW AND ARROW.

SAYS YOU!

IF ROBIN MADE A CRACK LIKE THAT ABOUT SANDMAN, I'D--!

WHY, NONE OF YOU GUYS EVEN HAS A SPECIAL POWER! BUT ZIT AND ME--



... SO WE FIGURED IT WAS HIGH TIME THE SEVEN SOLDIERS OF VICTORY MET THE JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA, RIGHT?

SURE THING, KID! TOO BAD THE SHANNING KNIGHT DECIDED HE HAD TO GAY IN LONDON, THOUGH.

BET CHLARD WILL DOESN'T AGREE WITH YOU.

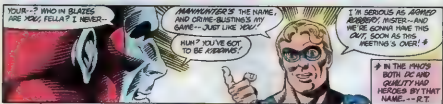


WELL, WE STILL GOT A FULL POSSE, THOUGH-- 'CAUSE THE CRIMINAL AVENGER HERE MANGLED HIS PAL HAYS INTO COMING.

OUR UNOFFICIAL EIGHTH SOLDIER

I'M NOT NATURALLY MUCH OF A JEWELER, MYSELF, BUT WHEN SANDMAN TOLD ME ABOUT--

PARDON ME, FRIEND.. BUT I BELIEVE YOU'VE GOT MY NAME!



YOUR--? WHO IN BLAZES ARE YOU, FELLA? I NEVER--

MANHUNTER'S THE NAME, AND CRIME-BUSTING'S MY GAME-- JUST LIKE YOU!

HUH? YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!

I'M SERIOUS AS ARMED ROBBERY, MISTER--AND WE'RE GONNA HAVE THIS OUT, SOON AS THIS MEETING'S OVER! ♣

♣ IN THE 1940'S BOTH DC AND QUALITY HAD HEROES BY THAT NAME.--R.T.



COME ON, HONEY. LET'S FIND LIBERTY BELLE, BEFORE WE GET KNEE-DEEP IN CONVERSATION.

I DON'T SEE HER...

SANDRA! I THOUGHT THAT WAS YOU BEHIND THOSE NEW BOSSLES

IT'S ME, ALL RIGHT, TED...

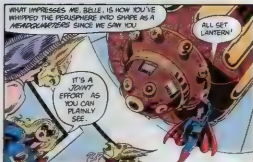


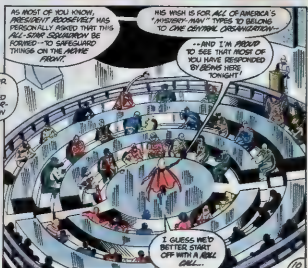
... OR SHOULD I CALL YOU SANDMAN, SO I DON'T BLOW YOUR SECRET I.D.--LET ALONE THE FACT THAT TED AND SANDRA KNIGHT ARE COUSINS?

PLACING ANY AND THE FBI CHECKED THIS GROUP OUT ALREADY, CUZ... THEY'RE ALL CLEAN.

YOU KNOW, YOU OUGHT TO THINK ABOUT WEARING A MASK, TOO-- EITHER THAT, OR DON'T WANDER TOO CLOSE TO ANY PHOTOGRAPHERS!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING







"THE SANDMAN."

"HERE."

"SANDY, THE
GOLDEN BOY."

"I'M HERE BUT DROP
THE GOLDEN BOY
STUFF, OKAY?"

"WILCOAT."

"YO!"

"PLASTIC MAN."

"HERE, THERE,
AND EVERYWHERE."

"THE SPECTRE."

"I AM HERE."

"STORMMAN."

"HERE."

"TARANTULA."

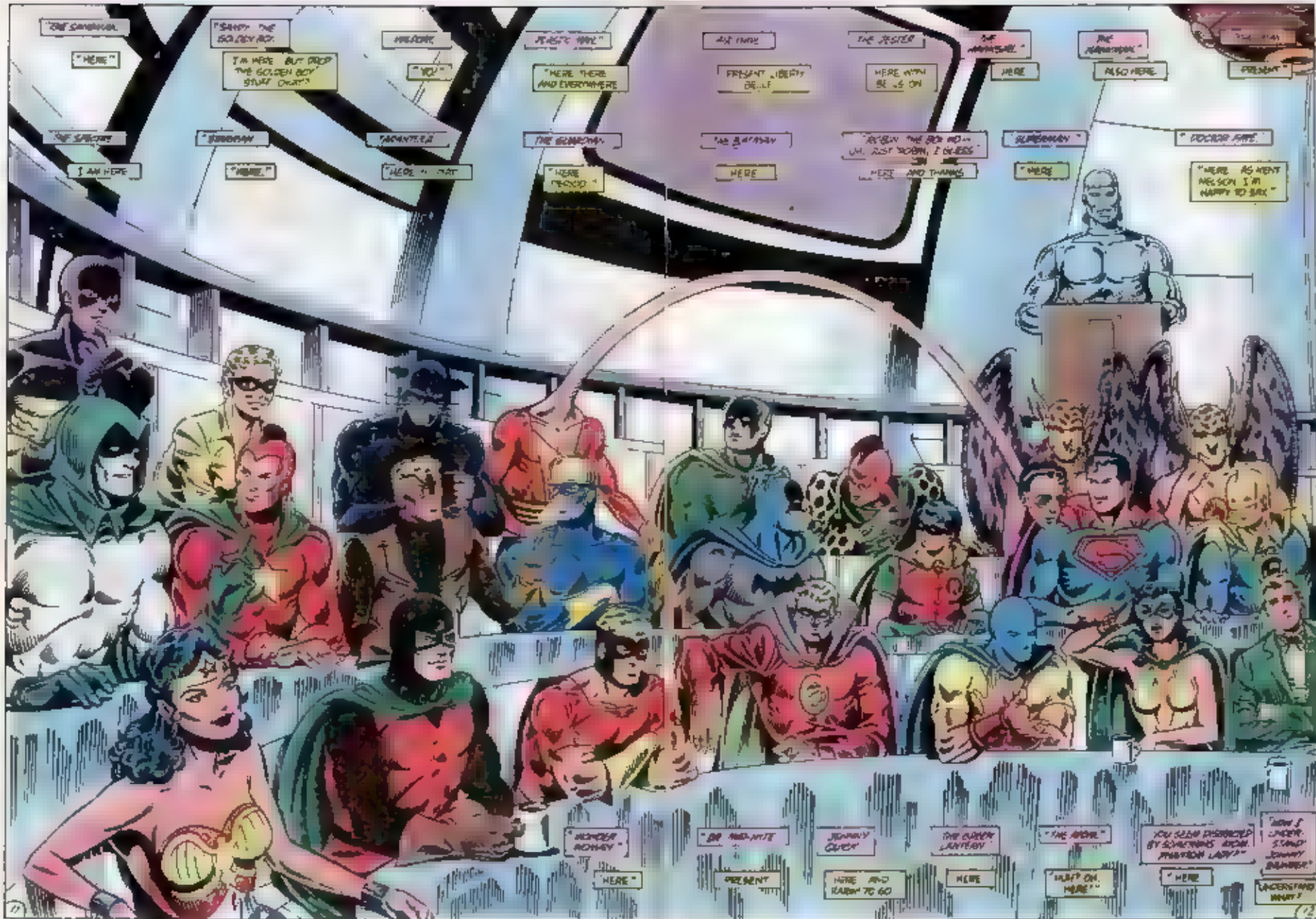
"HERE IN SPART."

"THE SANDMAN."

"HERE...
PERIOD."

"WONDER
WOMAN."

"HERE."



"THE SANDMAN"

"HERE"

"SANDY THE GOLDEN BOY"

"I'M HERE BUT DROP THE GOLDEN BOY STUFF OKAY?"

"HERE"

"YOU"

"JACK'S HERE"

"HERE THERE AND EVERYWHERE"

"ALL THERE"

"PRESENT LIBERTY DE-LI"

"THE JESTER"

"HERE WITH BE-SS ON"

"OF AMMUSEMENT"

"HERE"

"THE REARVIEW"

"ALSO HERE"

"THE PLAN"

"PRESENT"

"OF SPEECH"

"I AM HERE"

"SUNDAY"

"THREE"

"TACITLY"

"HERE" "NOT"

"THE GUMMERY"

"HERE PRESENT"

"THE GUMMERY"

"HERE"

"REBEL THE BOX NO... UM JUST DOBBIN, I OBEES"

"HERE AND THERE"

"SLURP-MAN"

"HERE"

"DOCTOR FIVE"

"HERE AS WENT NELSON I'M HAPPY TO SERVE"

"HENDER RONEY"

"HERE"

"DR MID-NITE"

"PRESENT"

"JENNY QUICK"

"HERE AND KAHN TO GO"

"THE CUREN LANTERN"

"HERE"

"THE ARROW"

"HAPP ON HERE"

"YOU SEEM DISTURBED BY SQUINTING AROUND PASTOR LARRY"

"HERE"

"NOW I HEAR, SUNDAY JENNY QUINN!"

"UNDERSTAND WHAT?"



"THE SANDMAN"

"HERE"

"SANDY THE GOLDEN BOY"

"I'M HERE BUT DROP THE 'GOLDEN BOY' STUFF, OKAY?"

"WILDCAT"

"YO!"

"PLASTIC MAN"

"HERE, THERE, AND EVERYWHERE"

"AIR WAVE"

"PRESENT LIBERTY BELLE"

"THE JESTER"

"HERE WITH BELLS ON"

"THE HAWKMAN"

"HERE"

"THE HAWKMAN"

"ALSO HERE"

"DOCTOR FATE"

"PRESENT"

"THE SPECTRE"

"I AM HERE."

"STARMAN"

"HERE."

"TARANTULA"

"HERE IN SORT"

"THE GUARDIAN"

"HERE... PERIOD."

"THE BATMAN"

"HERE"

"ROBIN, THE BOY WHO-- UH, JUST 'ROBIN,' I GUESS."

"HERE AND THANKS."

"SUPERMAN"

"HERE"

"DOCTOR FATE"

"HERE. AS KENT NELSON, I'M HAPPY TO SAY."

"WONDER WOMAN"

"HERE"

"DR MID-NITE"

"PRESENT"

"JOHNNY QUICK"

"HERE AND RARING TO GO"

"THE GREEN LANTERN"

"HERE"

"THE ATOM"

"HUN? OH... HERE"

"YOU SEEM DISTRACTED BY SOMETHING, ATOM. PHANTOM LADY?"

"HERE"

"NOW I UNDERSTAND! JOHNNY DRUMMER."

"UNDERSTAND WHAT?"

"AIR WAVE"

"THE JESTER."

"THE HAWKMAN..."

"THE HAWKMAN"

"PRESENT"

"PRESENT LIBERTY
BELLE

"HERE WITH
BELLS ON"

"HERE"

"ALSO HERE."

"PRESENT."

"THE BATMAN"

"ROBIN, THE BOY WHO--
UH, JUST 'ROBIN,' I GUESS."

"SUPERMAN."

"DOCTOR FATE."

"HERE"

"HERE AND THANKS"

"HERE."

"HERE... AS KENT
NELSON, I'M
HAPPY TO SAY."



"DR AND-NITE"

"JOHNNY
QUICK"

"THE GREEN
LANTERN..."

"THE ATOM."

"YOU SEEM DISTRACTED
BY SOMETHING, ATOM.
PHANTOM LADY?"

"HOW I
UNDER-
STAND!
JOHNNY
QUICKER!"

"PRESENT"

"HERE AND
RAVEN TO GO!"

"HERE."

"PLAY" ON...
HERE."

"HERE."

"UNDERSTAND
WHAT?"

10

MEASUREMENT

"RIGHT HERE, AND
LOADED FOR BEAR,
MA'AM."

HERE (SPEEDY,
STOP WHISPERING!)"

"THE RESP
BLE."

^a THE BLACK CONDOR™

"DAN THE
DYNASTY-ANTE"

TNT

"PRESENT."

"HERE."

' HERE, AND
PROUD OF IT ' "

"HERE. (DON'T
SHOW OFF.
KUNGSTER

*"THE
GUY"*

"GIVE ME A FIREBOARD!"

'THE
FLASH'

"ZATARA THE
MAGICAL"™

"COMMANDER
STEEL"

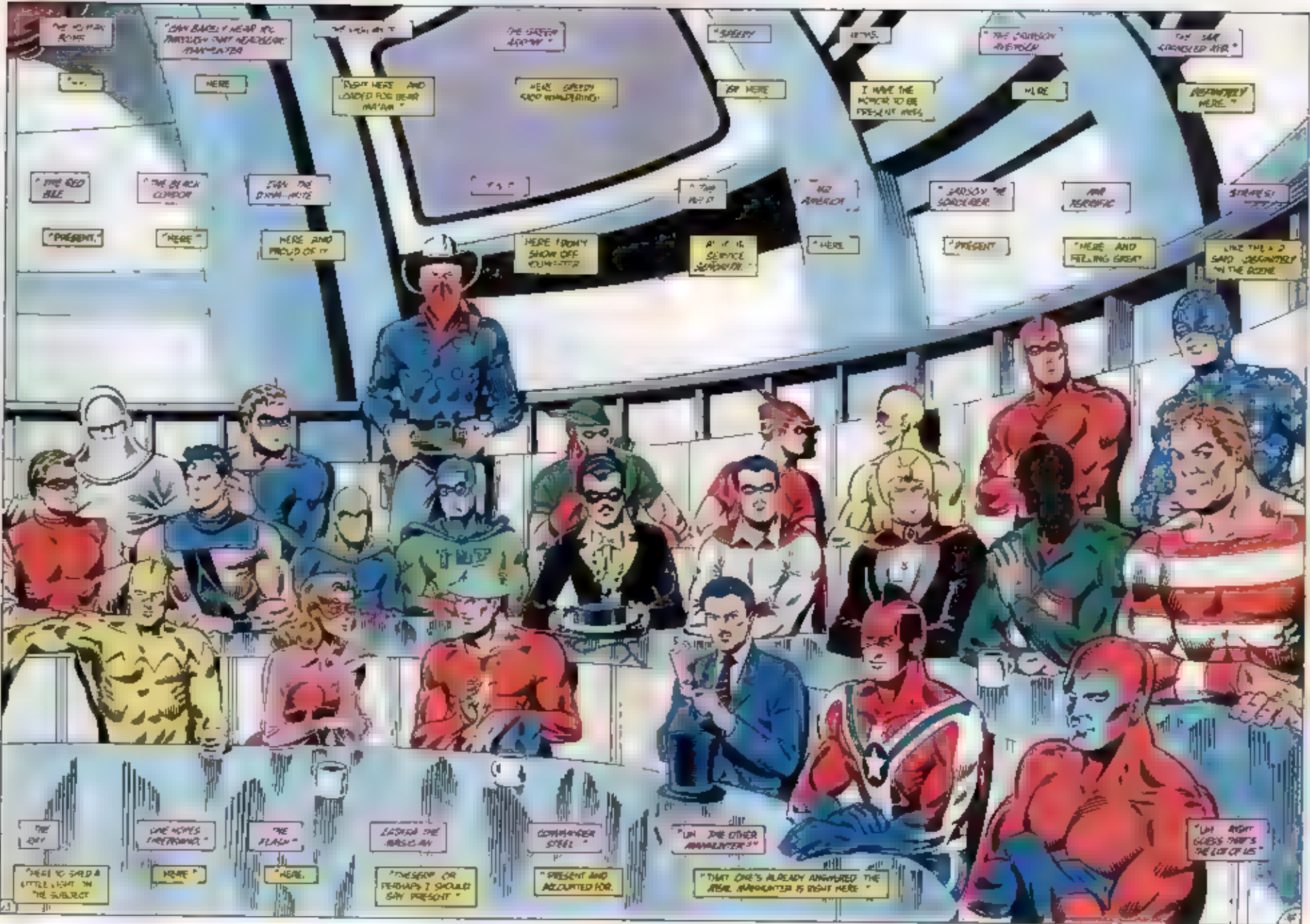
"HERE TO SHED A
LITTLE LIGHT ON
THE SUBJECT."

"HERE."

“此處”

"THESE, OR
PERHAPS I SHOULD
SAY PRESENT."

"PRESENT AND
ACCOUNTED FOR."



"THE MAIN ROOM"

"CAN SOMEONE HEAR ME PARTLY BECAUSE MY HEADLINE WAS 'ENTER'"

"WELL, HE'S"

"THE GUEST LISTING"

"SPEAK"

"HE'S"

"THE GUEST LISTING"

"THE GUEST LISTING"

"HERE"

"SIT HERE AND LOANED FOR BEAR HATMAN"

"HERE, SPEEDY CAN WHISPERING"

"BE HERE"

"I HAVE THE POWER TO BE PRESENT HERE"

"HERE"

"RESENTING HERE."

"THE RED BELL"

"THE BROWN CLOTH"

"SUN THE DOWN-HUTE"

"THE RED BELL"

"NO ANSWER"

"SARSON THE SOLDIER"

"THE RED BELL"

"STRESS!"

"PRESENT."

"HERE"

"HERE AND PROUD OF IT"

"HERE FROM SHOW OFF KUMMELER"

"AS IF IT'S SERVICE SCHEDULE"

"HERE"

"PRESENT"

"HERE AND FEELING GREAT"

"LIKE THE A 2 SAND JOSEPHINE IN THE SCENE"

"THE RED BELL"

"ONE MORE PRESENTING"

"THE FLASH"

"LEADER THE BASSMAN"

"COMMANDER STEEL"

"UN THE OTHER ANIMATOR"

"UN RIGHT GUESSES THAT'S THE LOT OF US"

"GREAT TO SHED A LITTLE LIGHT ON THE SUBJECT"

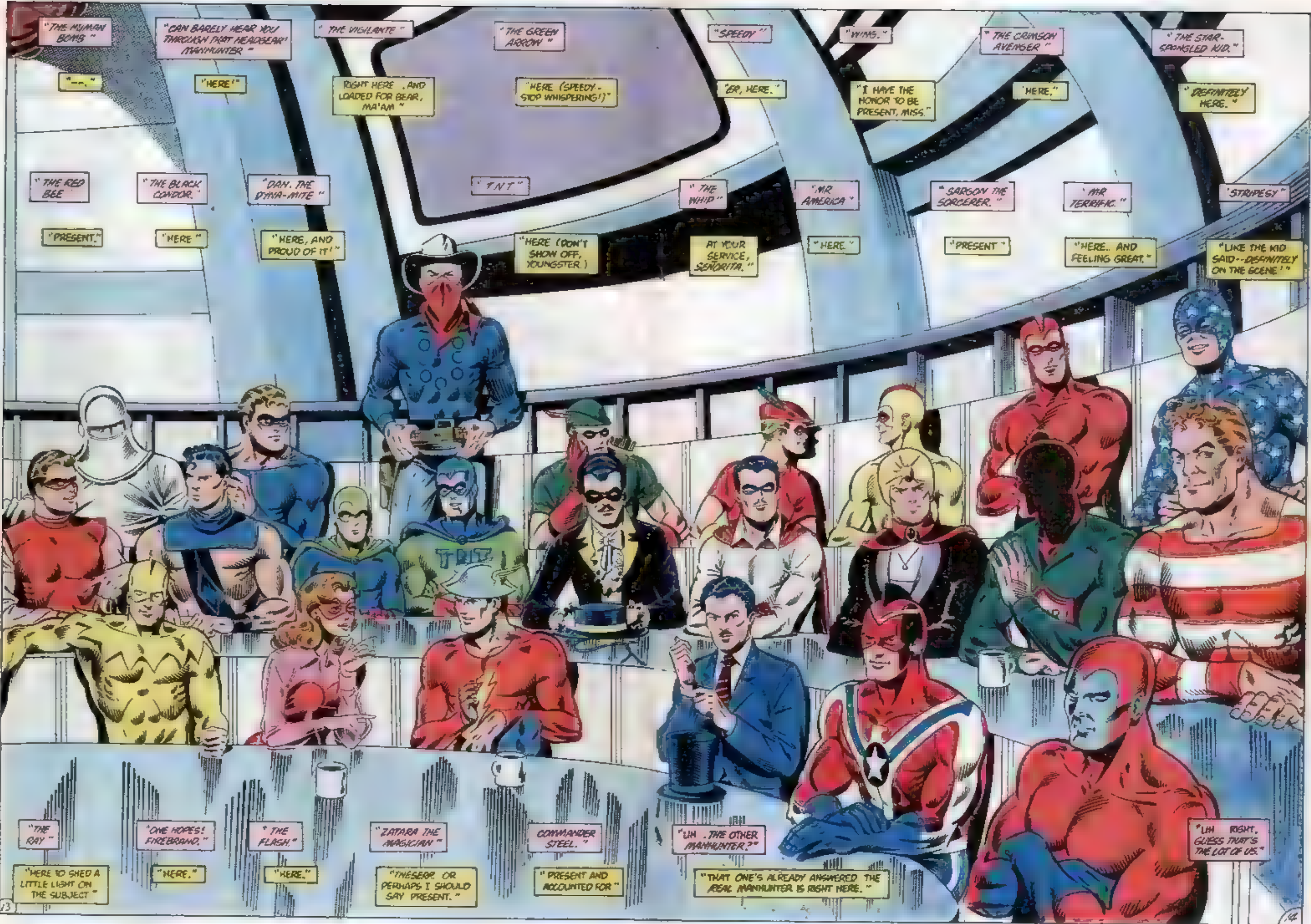
"HERE"

"HERE"

"THESE OR PERHAPS I SHOULD SAY PRESENT"

"PRESENT AND ACCOUNTED FOR"

"THAT ONE'S ALREADY ANSWERED THE REAL ANSWERER IS RIGHT HERE"



"THE MYMAN BOMB"

"CAN BARELY HEAR YOU THROUGH THAT HEADGEAR! MANHUNTER"

"THE VIGILANTE"

"THE GREEN ARROW"

"SPEEDY"

"WINGS."

"THE CRIMSON AVENGER"

"THE STAR-SPANGLED KID."

"--"

"HERE!"

RIGHT HERE, AND LOADED FOR BEAR, MA'AM

"HERE (SPEEDY-STOP WHISPERING!)"

"ER, HERE."

"I HAVE THE HONOR TO BE PRESENT, MISS."

"HERE."

"DEFINITELY HERE."

"THE RED BEE"

"THE BLACK CONDOR."

"DAN, THE DYNA-MITE"

"TNT"

"THE WHIP"

"MR AMERICA"

"SARGON THE SORCERER."

"MR TERRIFIC."

"STRIPEY"

"PRESENT."

"HERE"

"HERE, AND PROUD OF IT!"

"HERE (DON'T SHOW OFF, YOUNGSTER.)"

AT YOUR SERVICE, SEÑORITA."

"HERE."

"PRESENT"

"HERE. AND FEELING GREAT."

"LIKE THE KID SAID--DEFINITELY ON THE SCENE!"

"THE RAY"

"ONE HOPES! FIREBRAND."

"THE FLASH."

"ZATARA THE MAGICIAN"

COMMANDER STEEL."

"UH... THE OTHER MANHUNTER."

"UH RIGHT, GUESS THAT'S THE LOT OF US."

"HERE TO SHED A LITTLE LIGHT ON THE SUBJECT"

"HERE."

"HERE."

"THESEOR, OR PERHAPS I SHOULD SAY PRESENT."

"PRESENT AND ACCOUNTED FOR"

"THAT ONE'S ALREADY ANSWERED THE REAL MANHUNTER IS RIGHT HERE."

"SPEEDY."

"IRVING."

"THE CRIMSON
AVENGER."

"THE STAR-
SPANGLED KID."

"OR, HERE."

"I HAVE THE
HONOR TO BE
PRESENT, MISS."

"HERE."

"DEFINITELY
HERE."

"THE
WIDOW."

"MR.
AMERICA."

"SARGON THE
SWORDER."

"MR.
TERRIFIC."

"STRIPESY."

"AT YOUR
SERVICE,
SEÑORITA."

"HERE."

"PRESENT."

"HERE... AND
FEELING GREAT."

"LIKE THE KID
SAID--DEFINITELY
ON THE SCENE!"



"UM... THE OTHER
MANHUNTER?"

"THAT ONE'S ALREADY ANSWERED.
THE REAL MANHUNTER IS RIGHT HERE."

"UM... RIGHT.
GUESS THAT'S
THE LOT OF US."

OH, BEFORE I FORGET-- THE SHAMING KNIGHT SENT HIS REGRETS, FEELING HE MUST REMAIN IN LONDON FOR A TIME AS PERSONAL BODY-GUARD TO PRIME MINISTER CHURCHILL... AND SIR JUSTIN AS BAPTIST, AFTER ALL.

AQUAMAN WAS PROVED DIFFICULT TO CONTACT THROUGH NORMAL CHANNELS, SINCE HE'S GENERALLY AT SEA.

"AND ARMANDO-ARMY, WHO HELPED US OUT RECENTLY AGAINST THE ULTRA-ARMADITE, IS CURRENTLY TAKING A WELL-EARNED SABBATICAL IN HIS NATIVE COUNTRY."

"...WHILE TRYING TO DECIDE IF HE'S GOING TO CONTINUE AS A MYSTERY-MAN OR NOT."

"WE ALSO HAVE THE BEST WISHES OF SEVEN OF THE BRIGHTEST AVENGERS ON EARTH-- THE BLACKHAWKS--

"--WHO OPERATE FROM A SECRET ISLAND OFF THE COAST OF EUROPE."

THERE ARE A COUPLE OF CHIEFS WHO WROTE THEY'D BE HERE TONIGHT, BUT MEANWHILE...

ROBOTMAN AND COMMANDER STEEL ARE HANDING OUT MINATURE ARMO-CONVINCERS YOU MAY WEAR ON YOUR BELTS... PROVIDED YOU ARE 10, OF COURSE.

YEAH, BUT WHAT ABOUT US THAT GOT NO BELTS? WHERE DO WE PUT 'EM?

THAT'S WHAT I LIKE ABOUT YOU, WILDCAT

YOU'RE A GREAT STRAIGHT MAN.



NEXT, THERE'S OUR *ARMY-PROTECTOR* OVERHEAD, COURTESY OF SOME OF OUR MORE TECHNOLOGY-ORIENTED ALL-STARS.

WHEN YOU WEAR YOUR *RAD-COM* UNITS, IT'LL SHOW US INSTANTLY WHERE YOU ARE ON THAT SCREEN-- JUST AS IT'S DOING NOW.

AND NOW OUR *FOUNDER* HAS BEEN STANDING BY AT *NYC PARK*!!

THIS IS PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, SPEAKING TO YOU BY MEANS OF THAT AMAZING NEW INVENTION, TELEVISION.

I JUST WANTED TO SAY THAT ALL AMERICANS MUST WORK TOGETHER TO DEFEAT THE AXIS POWERS-- AND TO KEEP THE HOME FRONT STRONG AND SAFE.

JUST AS THERE'S ONE WARTIME ORGANIZATION FOR LABOR, ONE FOR INDUSTRY... SO THERE SHOULD BE ONE LARGE, OVERALL GROUP TO WHICH ALL LOYAL AMERICAN MEN AND WOMEN BELONG... NAMELY, THE ALL-STAR SQUADRON.

THANK YOU, AND GOOD NIGHT.

LET THE *COAST GUARD* PROTECT THE HOME FRONT! I'D RATHER BE OFF DIVE-BOMBING *ROMA* OR *BERLIN*!

LOOK, FELLAS-- YOU HEARD WHAT THE PRESIDENT WANTS OF US--!

I'M WITH YOU, CONCORD.

WY-- RATHER THAN GUARDREL AMONG OURSELVES, WHY DON'T WE OPEN THE FLOOR TO DISCUSSION ABOUT THINGS WE CAN BEST HELP THE WAR EFFORT. WE--

I'VE GOT ONE, MA'AM-- A RIGHT *ARMY* ONE, TOO!

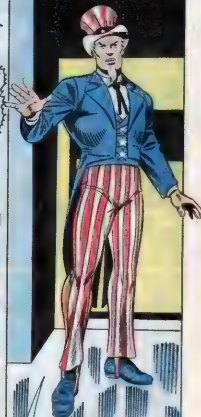
WHO--?

YEP, THAT'S ME-- AND I SURE AS BLAZES NEED *YOUR* HELP, ALL-STARS--

-- OR THE *WINKLE* BLAMED WORLD'S BOY! STRAIGHT TO HELL IN A *WINK*! HANDS OFF!

WHY, *SURELY* YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN AMERICA'S VERY FIRST DUTED-UP HERO--

"UNCLE SAM!"



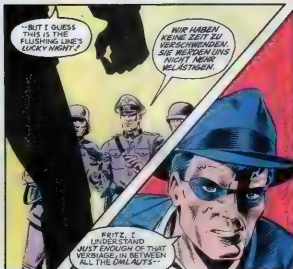


AS, IN QUEENS, NOT SO MANY MILES AWAY..

YOU!?



I THOUGHT I'D LEFT YOU GOOSE-STEPPERS BACK IN MANHATTAN--



--BUT I GUESS THIS IS THE FLUSHING LINE'S LUCKY NIGHT!

WIR HABEN KEINE ZEIT ZU VERSCHWENDEN. SIE WERDEN UNS NICHT MEHR BELASTIGEN.

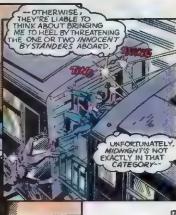
FRITZ, I UNDERSTAND JUST ENOUGH OF THAT VERBIAGE, IN BETWEEN ALL THE UMLAUTS--



--TO KNOW I HAVEN'T GOT MUCH TO LOSE WITH A FRONTAL ASSAULT!

GOT TO LEAD THESE S.S. TYPES OUT OF HERE--

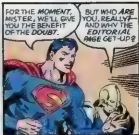
MEIN GOTT!



--OTHERWISE, THEY'RE LIABLE TO THINK ABOUT BRINGING ME TO HEEL BY THREATENING THE ONE OR TWO INNOCENT BYSTANDERS ABOARD.

UNFORTUNATELY, MIDNIGHT'S NOT EXACTLY IN THAT CATEGORY--





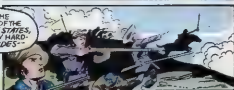
ART. STS LIKE TOM HAST AND MONTY FLAGG PUT DOWN ONLY WHAT THEY SAW IN THEIR MIND'S EYE, DOC FATE.

SHUCKS, I RECKON I'VE ALWAYS BEEN AROUND-- FROM BACK WHEN GEORGE WASHINGTON AND THE BOYS WERE FREEZING THEIR TAILS OFF IN WALLEY FORGE--

--"THROUGH THE UNHAPPY DAYS OF THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES, WHEN I WAS SURELY HARD-PRESSED TO TAKE SIDES"--

--"THROUGH THE SO-CALLED WAR TO END WAR US AMERICANS HELPED WIN BACK IN '17-'18"

ADMITTEDLY, I'VE NOT BEEN MUCH IN EVIDENCE SINCE THEN, TILL LATELY



"--STEPPIN' OUT INTO WHAT I KNEW RIGHT OFF WAS ANOTHER AMERICA--ON ANOTHER EARTH, PRETTY NEAR LIKE THE ONE I'D JUST LEFT--"



WH--WHERE'D YOU COME FROM, MISTER?

"--CEPT FOR A DIFFERENCE OR THREE!"



"--AND THERE WASN'T A SIMPLE MASKED MYSTERY-MAN AROUND TO HELP FIGHT 'EM--CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?"

"WELL, I REMEDIED THAT REAL QUICK. BY RECRUITIN' SOME FROM THIS WORLD--PEOPLE YOU MIGHT 'VE HEARD OF, LIKE--"



"THE RED TORPEDO!"

"MAGNA, THE MAGNETIC MAN!"

"--AND ANOTHER ONE A LOT OF YOU FOLKS KNOW FROM WHEN HE WAS A CHARTER MEMBER OF THE JUSTICE SOCIETY--"



"--A FELLER WHO WENT BY THE NAME OF HOURMAN--"



"SHOOT, I KNOW HE TOOK A LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM THE SOCIETY, LONG ABOUT THE TIME I RAN INTO HIM"

"BUT I GUESS HE STILL HAD A LITTLE GOOD AXIS-BUSTIN' LEFT IN HIM--"

"--AND BLAMED IF HE WEREN'T RIGHT AS RAIN!"

"LORDIE, WHAT A TEAM US SEVEN WOULD'VE MADE!"



"UNCLE ADOLF'S BULLY-BOYS WOULD NEVER HAVE KNOWN WHAT HIT 'EM!"

THEN--WHERE ARE THOSE GUYS NOW? WE--



THEY'RE... DEAD, LIBERTY BELLE.

EVERY LAST ONE OF 'EM... STONE COLD DEAD."

"WHEN THEY DIED, I WENT ON FIGHTIN' IN THAT WORLD, FOR A WHILE--FOR ALL THE GOOD IT DID ME."

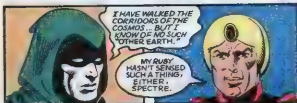
"IT TOOK ME A LONG TIME TO SUMMON UP THE WILL-POWER TO CROSS BACK TO THIS EARTH."

"FACT IS, I COULDN'T MAKE IT--TILL TONIGHT!"

"I WANTED TO GATHER MORE HEROES--EVEN GREATER ONES--AND TAKE SOME OF YOU BACK WITH ME."

"ONLY THING IS, I--I CAN'T GET BACK THERE! I KNOW--'CAUSE I'VE TRIED."

"PLEASE--CAN'T ONE OF YOU HELP ME?"



"I HAVE WALKED THE CORRIDORS OF THE COSMOS... BUT I KNOW OF NO SUCH 'OTHER EARTH.'"

"MY RUBY HASN'T SENSED SUCH A THING, EITHER, SPECTRE."

"AND EVEN IF IT DID--THIS IS OUR WORLD, NOT SOME OTHER EARTH!"

"THIS IS WHERE WE SHOULD BE--MUST BE!"

"I'M NOT SO SURE, LIBERTY BELLE."

"YEAH, THIS WHOLE THING SEEMS KINDA CRAZY, BUT STILL--"

"IF THERE IS ANOTHER EARTH, ANOTHER AMERICA, MAYBE THAT'S THE PLACE WE OUGHT TO BE--NOT COOLING OUR HEELS ON THE HOME FRONT ON THIS ONE, BY PRESIDENTIAL EDICT!"

"YOU'VE GOT A POINT THERE, CONDOR"

"ARE YOU SERIOUS?"

"THE RAY'S RIGHT, FIRE BRAND! AT THE VERY LEAST, WE'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO CHECK OUT THIS MAN'S STORY--"

"--AND IF IT'S TRUE--IF HE'S WHO HE SAYS HE IS--THEN I VOTE WE SEND A SQUADRON DELEGATION THERE, TO SEE HOW WE CAN HELP OUT!"

"SPEAK FOR YOURSELF, PHANTOM LADY"

"YEAH, I'M STAYIN' HERE!"

"IT'S JUST AS I FEARED, WE'RE BARELY GETTING ORGANIZED--AND ALREADY A WEDGE IS BEING DRIVEN BETWEEN US."

"I'D THINK IT WAS AN AXIS PLOT, IF NOT FOR--"

"LOOK, PEOPLE--THE ONLY WAY TO SETTLE THIS THING IS WITH SOME FAST DISCUSSION."

"WHAT DO THE REST OF THE ALL-STARS THINK WE SHOULD DO?"

WHEN THIS EARTH IS SAFE--

--THAT'S WHEN WE CAN GLADLY LEAVE IT TO FIGHT FOR ANOTHER

AREN'T THERE ENOUGH HEROES HERE-- THAT WE CAN SPARE A FEW FOR A WORLD THAT NEEDS THEM?

WE DON'T KNOW THAT, RAY-- SO LET'S PLAY IT THE PRESIDENT'S WAY FOR A WHILE.

I--I'M NOT SURE WHICH WAY TO GO-- BUT SHOULDN'T WE AT LEAST INVESTIGATE THE MATTER?

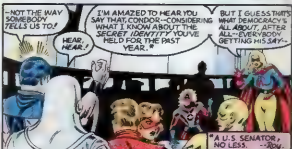
WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF THERE REALLY IS AN UNCLE SAM! I VOTE WE STAY HERE!

WHY? WE'RE NOT MUCH MORE THAN NIGHT WATCHMEN HERE.

IF YOU ASK THE BLACK CONDOR--



--I SAY, LET EVERY MAN FIGHT THE AXIS POWERS THE WAY HE WANTS TO--



--NOT THE WAY SOMEBODY TELLS US TO!

HEAR, HEAR!

I'M AMAZED TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT, CONDOR--CONSIDERING WHAT I KNOW ABOUT THE SECRET IDENTITY YOU'VE HELD FOR THE PAST YEAR.

BUT I GUESS THAT'S WHAT DEMOCRACY'S ALL ABOUT, AFTER ALL--EVERYBODY GETTING HIS SAY--

"A U.S. SENATOR, NO LESS. --Ray."



--SO MAYBE IT'S TIME WE PUT THE MATTER TO A VOTE.

I'M--MIGHTY SORRY I HAD TO BUST IN ON YOU ALL THIS WAY, BELLE... BUT I JUST PLAIN DIDN'T KNOW WHERE ELSE TO TURN.



YOU DID THE RIGHT-- EH?

HALT-- WHOEVER YOU ARE--



YOU CANNOT BE ADMITTED WHILE THE MEETING IS IN...

SORRY... TIN MAN. DON'T KNOW... WHAT MOVIE SERIAL YOU STEPPED OUT OF...

LOOK AT THAT GUY! HE'S HURT BAD!



GOOD GRAYV! T-THAT'S SOMEBODY INSIDE-- A GUY LESS THAN A FOOT TALL!

NOT JUST ANYBODY, FLASH. DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE HIM?



IT'S THE **IRON MAN**™

--AND HE LOOKS LIKE HE JUST MIGHT BE DYING!



...BUT I'VE GOT TO... TO GET THIS TO...
UNNN...NH...!

I'VE GOT HIM-- BUT WHO IS HE, ANYWAY? NO COSTUME... JUST A MASK!

I'VE GOT A FILE ON HIM. HIS CODE NAME'S MIDNIGHT.



UNLESS THIS IS SOME KIND OF NAZI TRICK, OF COURSE.

HMMM... EVEN AS HE COLLAPSED, HE SEEMED TO BE TRYING TO PROTECT THIS METAL BOX. I WONDER...

OPEN IT, LADY! LET'S SEE WHAT THE DEVIL--

NEXT ISSUE:

CRISIS ON EARTH-X: THE PROLOGUE!
--HOW THE **FREEDOM FIGHTERS** GOT THEIR START!

MEANWHILE...

RANDOM THOUGHTS: ON THE CONVENTION TRAIL, 1983

I like flying, I really do! (Providing I'm in an airplane ... no matter what the ads said, I don't believe a man can fly!) I hate getting to and from airports, though, and since I'm a bit paranoid about missing flights I tend to allow a little extra time to get to the airport (just in case) and inevitably find myself hanging around for an hour or two before I can board my flight. Thank God for airport bookstores, coffee shops and, I guess, cocktail lounges. Getting home after a trip is always a hassle. I live in Connecticut, about seventy miles from N.Y. airports and whether I have my car or hop a limo, the ground trip home seems to tire me more than the flight.

I became more aware of these attitudes this summer as just about every weekend I traveled to a distant city to attend a comic convention, the most ambitious convention tour ever undertaken by DC and/or yours truly. With Sal Amendola (our Talent Coordinator) for company on every trip and various other DC luminaries on some of them we attended conventions at Anaheim, CA; New York; Philadelphia, PA; Ottawa, Canada; Chicago, IL; San Diego, CA; Orlando, FL; still to come are Boston, Hartford, Wichita and New York again. I missed Houston, though I was scheduled to go and a small show in the Washington, D.C. area was cancelled.

I'm writing this a few days before Labor Day with Bob Rozakis (and the typesetter) hovering anxiously in the background. (copy was due September 1st ... late again!) A jumble of fleeting remembrances, impressions and random thoughts vis for attention.

I remember;

—Sal Amendola calling my home from Houston to make sure I was still alive. He'd flown there from Washington, D.C. where he had just completed teaching a week-long seminar on drawing S.F. comics at the Smithsonian Institute. He expected to meet me at the Houston convention. A rumor spread on the

convention floor that I had collapsed, passed out or had been taken to the hospital in a state of exhaustion. All untrue, of course ... but I was tired and not feeling well enough to take the trip. Still, Sal's concern (and the rumor-monger's) was touching.

—The wonderful reception afforded DC's 16MM sound film which was shown at least once each convention. It's about ten minutes long and after a brief retrospective, it outlines all the new and exciting comics coming from DC for the rest of '83 and some of '84.

—Having Murphy Anderson (and Mrs. "Murph") show up, unexpectedly, at many of the conventions. Murph has been away from comics for about 10 years while he handled the immense task of producing a monthly preventive maintenance magazine for the U.S. Army. He's finished with that and his byline and familiar style will be gracing the pages of DC Comics again! Welcome back, Murph.

—Meeting Joe Shuster and Jerry Siegel at San Diego. We've met before, of course, and we didn't have too much time to talk this time but it's always good to meet Superman's creators.

—Chicago and San Diego which continue to be among the best attended and best organized cons around. (Although there was a massive room foul-up at Chicago this year, it was the hotel's fault.) Lotsa pro, lotsa fans and dealers at both.

—The Ottawa con held on a modern college campus. We slept in small, clean dorm rooms (Ye Gods! Ne TV?) Some pros thought that wasn't sophisticated enough, I guess, and opted for hotel accommodations nearby. Sal and I (the DC contingent) stayed and had fun! Sipping beer with college guys made me feel young again ... Briefly.

—Talking to so many of our readers and fans. About comics in general and DC Comics in particular. Most of 'em thought comics today are more exciting than they've been in years.

—Wishing I could have talked to more.

—Grateful to be alive after being attacked (sort of) by about a half

dozen crazed DC writers upon my return to the hotel in San Diego. I was coming home from a nice dinner at a Mexican restaurant down at the harbor and these six loonies had concocted an idea for a new maxi-series and were looking for me to approve the idea. They charged at me as I entered the lobby and in exchange for sparing my life I gave them the go ahead ... and the DC Challenge was born! (More on that later.)

—Talking with DC regulars and old friends Roy Thomas, Gerry Conway, Dan Jurgens, Mark Evanier, Dan Spiegel, Jerry Ordway, Mike Machlan, Jan Strnad, Don Newton, Steve Gerber and others (whose names I will remember the moment this goes to press) who live and work too far from the home office for me to see regularly.

—All those hotel rooms, all those restaurant meals, all those rented cars, all those cab rides. All those carefully collected receipts for my expense vouchers.

—Talking comics with old friends Mike Friedrich (of Star* Beach) and Der Skinn (Editor of *Warrior*, a top-notch British comic).

—Beating Marvel (by a nose!) at the Comics Feud, a San Diego Con version of *The Family Feud*! They'll be after us next year, with blood in their eyes, at a re-match.

—The projector breaking down at Philadelphia about 2 minutes into our film and Sal Amendola and me having to do about 15 minutes of impromptu chatter and fielding questions from the audience while a new projector was found and set-up.

—The unprecedented steak 'n' eggs breakfast for attending pro given by the new guys on the block. Multi-Media conventions, at Philadelphia. Thanks, guys.

—The hotel itself at the aforementioned Multi-Media Con in Philly. Brand new and beautiful!

—Talking to aspiring writers and artists as Sal Amendola and I looked at their portfolios. So many reminded me of myself some thirty-odd years ago. Incidentally, we're being forced to temporarily shelve our talent search for a time. We've been overwhelmed by samples mailed to us and folk who have talked to us and showed us samples at conventions. We're going to have to spend some time working closely with the talent that has surfaced and responding to all who have submitted samples. If you've thought of submitting, please hang on for a while as we dig out. We'll give you the go-ahead in this column as soon as all's clear.

—Seeing and chatting with our comic distributors all of whom I was lucky enough to meet at a meeting on the Warner's lot in L.A. earlier this year.

—Heering the universally positive attitudes expressed by publishers, distributors, dealers and fans about the future of comics in this country. Thank you and Good Afternoon.

—Dick

ALL-STAR SQUADROOM

L-1528

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New York, NY 10103

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Roy Thomas, Editor
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SPECIAL NOTE: Well, it took a couple of months longer than we'd originally planned, but new artist Rick Hoberg has finally joined the ALL-STAR SQUADRON team as regular penciler, and—having admired his work on this year's JUSTICE LEAGUE ANNUAL #1 as well as in CAPTAIN CARROT and various issues of this very mag—we hope he sticks around a long, long time. As stated before, Rick, who now resides in Long Beach, California, with his charmingly nutty wife, Aleta, has been a friend of mine for several years now, and we did a spot of work together at Marvel Comics in the late 70's, but it wasn't till CAPTAIN CARROT came along that we shared a regular series—and by then, also for me, I was only editing, not scripting, the series. Obviously, that's not something that's going to happen on this mag, which I enjoy writing so much I almost feel guilty accepting a paycheck for it. (Hey, Dick G., I said "almost!")

An issue or two from now, we'll push Rick into doing a mini-bio on himself. Right now, we'd best be getting back to our letters on Jerry Ordway's last issue of his regular stint, #27.

—R.T.

Dear Roy:

Ah, Dr. Fate and the Spectre: the Mystic Mage and the Ghostly Guardian. These two beings, together and separately, are probably my two favorite comic book super-beings of all time. In terms of sheer invulnerability, they're certainly two of the most powerful—particularly the Spectre, who, by my judging, is the mightiest being ever in comics.

Anyway, "A Spectre is Haunting the Multiverse!" was a dynamite tale. I think the best thing about this particular issue of ALL-STAR SQUADRON is that the All-Stars were hardly in it! Don't get me wrong—the All-Stars are great, too (wouldn't buy the mag if I didn't think so), but till now the JSA hasn't had a whole issue—let alone two—to themselves.

Welcome aboard to Larry Houston and, in an issue or two, Rick Hoberg. And, though his style is radically different from Jerry Ordway's, I also really dug Richard Howell's art as well. Richard and Larry's combined art was, in its own way, as good as Ordway's—particularly Howell's depiction of the Multiverse.

Anyway, getting back to Doc Fate and

the Spectre, I had always hoped I might see them battle one day, if only to answer the question "Could even Dr. Fate survive an all-out battle with the Spectre?" Obviously, the answer is no. Fortunately for Fate, even though the Spectre was under Kulak's control, he retained a sense of familiarity with his former friend, and Spec didn't evaporate Fate with a single glance, as perhaps he could have.

Even M. Lanctot
45 Powers Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94110

Hope you liked the conclusion of the tale in issue #28 as well. Even. Meanwhile, it seems inker Larry Houston decided he was just too busy with his full-time job in animation, though he'd love to ink (or even pencil) some shorter tales for DC one of these days. Thus, we're still in the throes of figuring out who'll be the regular inker over the dynamic pencils of one of DC's newest stars, Rick Hoberg, debuting this issue. In the meantime, Mike Machlan—not exactly a name unfamiliar to ALL-STAR SQUADRON readers—stepped in to ink this month's saga, just to get things going. But we wonder if he'd have volunteered if he'd known that more than fifty super-heroes (pardon us, "mystery-men") would appear in at least one panel!

—R.T.

Under All-Star Fools—

I, the Ultra-Humanite, live on! Batman and the rest may be fools enough to believe I actually perished with that soft-hearted wimp, Cyclotron. Of course, I teleported myself to Limbo the moment Terry Curtis blew up. No, Commander Steel (4th panel, p. 37 of ANNUAL #2), you cannot assume it's all over! I'll be back, unless, of course, the staff at DC doesn't want me to be back.

(communicated through)

Derek Murrans
96 Flamingo Dr.
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

Oh, but we do, Ultra—for recent issues of ALL-STAR SQUADRON told only the 1942 part of your story. For the remainder, see the first few issues of INFINITY, INC.—now on sale. (End of unabashed plug.)

—R.T.

Dear Mr. Thomas,

Let's all face up to facts: ALL-STAR SQUADRON (at least for the past half year) has been the best comic book on the stands. I'm sorry to say I doubt it will

be at this extreme brilliance after Mr. Ordway and Mr. Machlan (two of the nicest guys I've ever met as well as the best penciler/inker team in the comic industry today) leave this mag. I hope letterer "Cody" sticks around; he's one of the best letterers DC (or anybody else) has to offer.

INFINITY, INC. is the greatest group of characters to come along since the New Teen Titans (don't you hate how every group is compared to them?), but 100% better. While at the eighth annual Chicago Comicon, I had the extreme pleasure of actually meeting (and becoming friends with) Jerry Ordway and Mike Machlan and his neat wife, Carol. I also met some All-Star/Infinity fans from all over. We got together and are starting an Infinity, Inc. Fan Club. So far we have seven members, including Mr. and Mrs. Mike Machlan. Oh yes, and good luck on the upcoming Justice Society mini-series. It's sure to be great!

Joe Podawiltz III
130 Cloverdale Lane
Schaumburg, IL 60194

We'll be trying. Joe—though, right now, it looks as if Jerry Ordway's gonna be too busy penciling INFINITY, INC. for a while to work on it, as we'd both originally hoped. But we've got another stellar talent all lined up, and we'll tell you about it soon.

Meanwhile, thanks for the kind words, but—an Infinity Inc. Fan Club already? Looks like the group made an even greater impression on you and your friends than on the multitude of readers we heard from last issue.

—R.T.

Dear Roy,

Well, you people certainly know how to make it nearly impossible to pass up a new comic book. With my college expenses rising and little immediate income in sight, I had determined to harden my heart for the sake of my pocketbook and bypass INFINITY, INC. It was hard to overcome my natural impulse to buy every new comic, but I had made up my mind.

That, of course, was before the young heroes in question revealed their parentage. Why did you have to do that? You put my resolve to a sore test, and not too surprisingly, it collapsed. Before the promise to reveal the private lives of the JSAs, this was not too startling. Like numerous other comics fans, I've already begun to play the game of "Now whose child could this one be?" And

onto this the promised appearance of the Huntress, Power Girl, and other JSAers, not to mention the question of why they're incorporated, and you've got me extremely anxious for INFINITY, INC.'s debut.

Yet, after giving us these tantalizing grounds for conjecture, you are now meanly forcing people to wait several months before revealing the answers. That goes beyond mean; it's downright cruel. After making me break my resolve, giving us this fantastic puzzle, and condemning people to wait several months for its resolution, all I ask is that you make INFINITY, INC. worth it, all the way around.

Nancy Buchanan
2839 Sheffield Dr.
Indianapolis, IN 46229

What can we say, Nancy, but that we'll try? We hope you've already savored the Thomas-Ordway-Machian mag which debuted (if our schedules all held true) just a week or so before this issue of ALL-STAR SQUADRON... and that you do, indeed, think INFINITY as well is worth adding to your collection. And good luck in college!

—R.T.

Dear Roy,

One would expect you to relax a bit after the multi-issue epic now under the bridge, but ALL-STAR SQUADRON #27 did not lack quality in either the story or art departments. It was good to see the Justice Society together with no Squadron members around, simply because though I enjoy the latter, they've pushed the originals out of the way—until now. I appreciated the focus on little-seen members such as Starman and Dr. Mid-Nite.

As for the confrontation between the Spectre and Dr. Fate, I must admit I'm not a big fan of mystical encounters of this sort. It seems very inappropriate in this book, and I hope next issue's conclusion is the last we see of them. Bug-eyed glubs like the one on pp. 19-20 may be fine for other books, but they are counter to the spirit of this one. When you consider the original Justice Society's run in ALL-STAR COMICS, their foes were of the decidedly non-mystical (and non-superpowered, for that matter) type, and the members relied on their wits as well as their gifts. Granted the kiddies want to see costumed creeps and explosive, colorful battles, but that doesn't mean that every issue must have it.

The art this issue was quite different from what we've come to expect, being spoiled on Jerry Ordway's detailed work, but Richard Howell has something going for him that Ordway lacked: a genuine touch of the early 40's comic-book era. His Wonder Woman especially captured this era, and I eagerly absorbed every panel that had her in it. It's interesting—Sandman looked like Kirby and Simon did him, Hawkman looked like Moldoff's version (particularly the wings), and—well, you get the idea. I liked it!

John K. Austin
S. 604 Jefferson #6
Spokane, WA 99204

So do we, John, though we must admit we think Jerry Ordway captured more of the 1940's feel than you gave him credit for, especially in light of the fact that Ye Writer/Editor never wanted the book to look overmuch like the books of the actual 40's. Still, we agree that Richard Howell did a great job—and you

saw more of his work in #30, when he pitched in and even drew a bunch of emergency pages while attending the 1983 San Diego Comics Convention! Now, that's coming through in a pinch—and thanks again, Rich. We'll all be looking forward to more of your work in DC mags... and we're glad you got a chance to shine in ALL-STAR SQUADRON.

—R.T.

A NOTE ON EARTH-X: One of the technical problems which has plagued (yet in other strange ways, revitalized) ALL-STAR SQUADRON for many moons now is the question of what to do about Earth-X, the world from which the Freedom Fighters came when they first appeared in JUSTICE LEAGUE, later in their own series—especially since this mag was committed to using the Quality heroes, which included all the Freedom Fighters, as well as the DC super-stars of the Golden Age.

Our real quandry was— are there two Phantom Ladies, two Black Condors, two Rays and Human Bombs and Doll Men and male Firebrands and even Uncle Sams, or only one of each? Recently, at an editorial conference held while Yours

Truly was briefly back in the Big Apple, executive editor Dick Giordano concurred in the way I want to handle the matter—and, just as importantly to me personally, DC writer/editor Len Wein (who created the Freedom Fighters concept some years ago now for those JLA issues) gave the project his blessing. So you can look for the next couple of issues of ALL-STAR SQUADRON to begin to get the DC Universe's various alternate earths in order—and look for a visit from Captain Marvel (who, of course, was on Earth-S, a.k.a. Earth-Shazam, during World War Two) as well, a few short months from now.

And none of these will involve time-travel stories! Even Ye Writer/Editor has had enough of those for a while!

—Roy Thomas.

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